

Fremont Fourth of July Parade to March in Warm Springs

trike up the band, inflate the balloons, and start singing patriotic songs because the annual Fremont Fourth of July Parade is marching to town.

On **Saturday, July 4 at 10 a.m.,** more than 85 parade entries, including giant helium balloons, colorful patriotic floats, marching bands and drum and bugle corps, and equestrian entries will make their way through the Warm Springs District. The parade will march down Warm Springs Boulevard in south Fremont, and is being organized and funded 100 percent by community members.

Visit Fremont4th.org for more information.





Please Remember:

Fireworks are Banned in Fremont

lease remember the sale, possession, and use of fireworks are banned within the City of Fremont. This ban includes the "safe and sane" variety of fireworks that are legal in some other cities. Fremont's Fire Department and Police Department will be patrolling Fremont neighborhoods to ensure a safe Fourth of July.

City's Website Gets Extreme Makeover

Learn about all of the cool new features on page 6.



City Manager's Message



On May 26, 2009, the provisional operating budget for Fiscal Year 2009/10 totaling \$136 million was presented to the Council. In the months leading up to the budget presentation, several budget strategies were

considered as we continued to receive information about declining property and sales tax revenue. We developed a balanced strategy for responding to reduced revenue that would minimize the impact to the community and our employees. As a next step, all departments were asked to hold open vacancies to reduce our expenses. We also relied on our fund balance, and plan to tap our reserves this year and next, in an effort to preserve City services. Unfortunately, the current crisis is so severe that we cannot balance the budget with those strategies alone. As a result, we had to further reduce services and eliminate 74 budgeted positions as well as 29 temporary employees from our workforce.

Even as we presented a balanced provisional budget, the economic condition of our City still remains uncertain as we wait and see how the State will respond to its budget crisis. Prior to the May 19 special election, the Governor proposed to borrow \$2 billion in property taxes from local government under the provisions of Proposition 1A of 2004.

Proposition 1A of 2004 provides that the State can borrow 8 percent of local property taxes twice every 10 years, and the second time only if the first borrowing has been repaid. Each borrowing must be repaid within three years, with interest. For Fremont, 8 percent of our property taxes is \$5.6 million.

Unfortunately, if the legislature agrees to this proposal, we will have to consider additional strategies to maintain a balanced budget, which may include further reductions in Fiscal Year 2009/10. We will continue to closely monitor State actions and changing economic conditions, sharing information with the Council and community as we receive it. Actions taken will affect City services, as noted in the article on page 3.

Fred Diaz, City Manager

City Hall News

City of Fremont Budget

Declining Revenues Force Difficult Decisions

he economy continues to be in a state of disarray. Economists have determined that we are in the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, and expect this trend will continue well into 2010 and possibly into 2011.

The biggest challenge continues to be a decline in revenue as the City's two largest revenue sources, property and sales taxes, continue to suffer. Sales tax revenue has declined by 6.6 percent since the 2007/08 fiscal year, and the City will receive \$1.4 million less in sales tax revenue than previously projected at the mid year budget update in February. In addition, the median home value has decreased by 23 percent since April 2008 and we expect property tax revenues will be lower in 2009/10 than previously expected.

Although the City of Fremont is in a better position than many other California cities, the effects of the recession have definitely impacted the City and the way we can provide services now and in the future. In order to balance the City's budget, cuts in services and the workforce are necessary. The decisions were difficult, but necessary in order to maintain the City's short- and long-term financial health. Overall, 74 regular and 29 temporary positions have been eliminated. As a result, some services will be reduced or cut altogether. See Page 3 for additional details on those cuts.

Continued on top of Page 3

City of Fremont

The City Council meets the first, second, and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 3300 Capitol Ave.

Work sessions are held the third Tuesday of each month, times vary. Meetings are broadcast over Cable TV Channel 27 or webcast online at Fremont.gov/CityHall/Webcasts.

City Council

Bob Wasserman, Mayor Anu Natarajan, Vice Mayor Bob Wieckowski, Bill Harrison, Suzanne Lee Chan

City Manager

Fred Diaz

Fremont City News

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Every level of the organization has been reevaluated in order to keep the City solvent. Specifically, public safety budgets have been reduced by 5 percent; Community Development has received a 20 percent decrease due to declining development activity; and all other departments received 10 percent funding cuts.

While some of these cuts, such as public safety, will impact direct services to the community more than others, the fact remains that the City will do its best to maintain a quality level of service with fewer resources. It's a challenging task, but one that we are committed to fulfilling.

Service Impacts to the Community

ver the years the City has adapted to doing more with less, and using appropriate tools to work as effectively as possible despite the circumstances. Unfortunately, given the downturn in the economy and impending State financial takeaways, the following service reductions are necessary and will have noticeable impacts on the community.

Impacts — Public Safety

Fire Department

- Rolling "Brownouts" Fire Station Closures
- Delayed Emergency Response Times

Police Department

- Fewer Officers on the Street
- Police Front Lobby Desk Hours Reduced
- Street Crimes Unit may be Suspended
- Citizen's Ride Along/National Night Out Curtailed or Eliminated

Impacts — Maintenance

- Streets and Sidewalks will Deteriorate Further
- Delays in Sign Repair, Lane Striping, and Legend Painting
- Median Maintenance Reduced Further
- Street Trees No Longer Maintained for Aesthetics, only Safety
- Central Park Maintenance Reduced
- Temporary Skate Park Closed
- Trash and Litter Pick-up Reduced

Impacts — Other

- Permit Processing Delayed
- Traffic Service Responses Delayed (Focus will be on traffic safety requests; service requests will have a lower priority.)
- Summer Playground Scholarships Reduced
- Citywide Newsletter (City News) Publication Reduced
- Decreased Ability to Respond to Community Requests



Improvements in City's Permit Center will Help Customers

he City constantly reviews our operations for ways to be more efficient. Recently, with the help of an outside consultant, we looked in depth at how we process applications for construction projects ranging from new office and retail buildings to housing subdivisions or remodels of single family homes. This review led to changes that we believe will make applying for a building permit easier and faster.

Some of the improvements include:

- One of our employees will serve as a "concierge" and greet customers in our Permit Center to help them get started with the permitting process.
- We formerly assigned various City staff as larger projects moved from the planning to construction stage. Now a team will be assembled when we receive the application and will stay with it from start to finish. The project's team leader will respond to the applicant after its submittal.
- We now offer all our permit services during the lunch hour to assist homeowners and other customers obtain permits, making our staff more accessible to the public.

With these changes as well as other ones in place, the permit process should be quicker and more straightforward than ever before.

Federal Stimulus Funding

Federal Stimulus Package

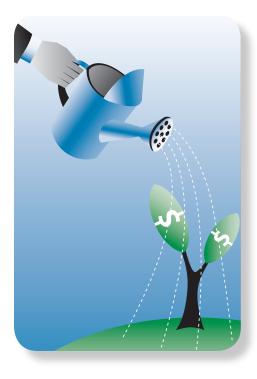
he President signed the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17, also commonly known as the Federal Stimulus Package. The main objectives of the Federal Stimulus Package are to create jobs and stabilize the economy.



Fremont's Share

At this time, Fremont has applied for approximately \$10.7 million in Federal Stimulus funding. The funding will include additional Community Development Block Grant funds, which may be used for capital needs and social services; funding for affordable housing through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program; funding for homelessness prevention; competitive grants to fund police officers (COPS funding); funding for police equipment as well as for storage buildings at the fire stations in Centerville and Baylands; and projects resulting in energy efficiency and/or greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

If you would like to know about the types of funding available, visit Recovery.gov. To learn more about the City's activities, visit Fremont.gov/Recovery.



Why *Now* is the Time to Invest and Develop

Fremont's Local Business Stimulus Package

remont is not immune to the worldwide economic downturn. And although we can't avoid it completely, the City Council and City staff are doing everything possible to minimize financial impacts on our local businesses and developers. Consequently, the Council approved a "Local Business Stimulus Package" on March 3, which includes the following:

- Collect only 90 percent or 75 percent (depending on location) of the required amount of impact fees for projects that pull their building permits before December 31, 2011. (This was adopted on April 7.)
- Delay payment of the impact fees until the time of occupancy—rather than at the issuance of building permits. (Pending)
- Offer options to finance local fees.
- Apply for construction rehab loans in Redevelopment Areas.
- Clean technology R&D and manufacturing firms may be exempted from business taxes.
- The City increased Fremont's local purchasing preference for Fremont businesses from 2.5 percent to 5 percent. Contact our Finance Department to get on the preferred vendor list. (See Page 5, "Why Shop Fremont?" for "how to" details.)

Now is a great time to plan and build your project so that it is poised for the next real estate cycle. For more information, contact the Office of Economic Development at 284-4020.



for Fremont



Need Your Home Weatherized?

s your home too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer? Are your electric or gas bills too high? If so, the Weatherization Assistance Program may help you with these problems.

The Federal Stimulus Package is providing California with a \$185 million increase in funds for the State's Weatherization
Assistance Program. The purpose of the program is to increase the energy efficiency of homes owned or occupied by low-income Californians, reduce the amount these families spend on energy, and improve their health and safety.

Eligible low-income households can get free weatherization services to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Energy-saving weatherization services include measures such as attic insulation, caulking, water heater blanket, heating/cooling system repair, and energy efficiency appliances.

To find out if you are eligible to apply for free home weatherization services, call Spectrum Community Services at 889-0921 or visit Spectrumcs.org.



SBA Loans: Can they Help Your Business?

mall business owners should check out the new Small Business Association (SBA) loan requirements and programs that are designed to help businesses as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

These changes temporarily raise guarantees and eliminate fees for borrowers for certain 7(a) loans. These loans, which are partially guaranteed by the SBA, are issued by a bank to a small business to support its operations. Additionally, the SBA has temporarily eliminated fees for borrowers and third party lenders on its 504 Certified Development Company Loans. These loans offer growing small businesses long-term, fixed-rate financing for major fixed assets, such as land, buildings and machinery, and equipment.

In addition, the SBA's new Recovery Capital Loan program can provide up to \$35,000 in short-term relief for viable small businesses facing financial hardship.

You can apply immediately to any SBA participating lender to take advantage of these programs. Visit SBA.gov for more information.

Why Shop Fremont?

hen you shop in Fremont your purchases help fund services such as police, fire, parks, and street maintenance. In addition, local businesses provide important services and employment for our community. Be sure to "Shop Fremont" and buy local goods and services. Also, check out our list of online coupons from local merchants and save money while supporting our community. Visit ShopFremont.biz for the coupons.

If you operate a local business, we want to help you succeed. Consider participating in our "Shop Fremont" program. We can provide free advertising through our online coupon program and free shopping bags. Together we can spread the message about supporting local businesses. Contact the City's Office of Economic Development 284-4020 for assistance.

Also, if your local business is interested in doing business with the City, please become a vendor. By joining our local preference vendor list you will have the opportunity to bid on purchasing projects. Fremont vendors have a 5 percent local purchasing preference. Learn more at Fremont.gov/LocalBusinessPreference or contact the City's Finance Department at 494-4610.



Our Community

City's Website Gets Extreme Makeover

Fresh Look Allows Easier Navigation, Custom Communications

arlier this month, the City unveiled its new website, www.Fremont.gov, complete with easier navigation, custom communications, and an overall more user-friendly design. It was the website's first complete overhaul since 2002.

With the redesigned website, site visitors can now subscribe to "Notify Me," an opt-in e-mail notification system, and RSS feeds to stay connected with the City. The Notify Me system allows citizens, as well as anyone who is interested in the City of Fremont, to subscribe to any number of e-mail lists and then automatically be notified of updates in their chosen categories.

Information is separated into five main navigation categories: Your Government, Departments, Our Community, How Do I?, and Doing Business. These categories will enable site visitors to navigate intuitively through the website to find the desired information.

Site visitors can access City documents and perform City business online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition, a comprehensive section of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for each City department will be available as well as individual department calendars listing events. Another highlight includes a robust "search tool" to delve deep into web pages, documents, and directories to find specific information.

The new website represents the City's commitment to provide real time information to the Fremont community.



BART Warm Springs Extension Construction to Begin in Central Park

Some Facilities to be Relocated, yet Park Remains Open

onstruction of the long awaited BART Warm Springs Extension, a 5.4-mile extension of BART service south into the Warm Springs District, is scheduled to begin this summer. The first component of work, the Fremont Central Park Subway Contract, was awarded in the spring to construct a mile-long subway between Walnut Avenue and the eastern edge of Central Park.

A number of facilities within
Central Park will be relocated to
accommodate the work within
the park. The changes to facilities
include permanent relocation of the
dog park and basketball courts as
well as some parking. Despite being
the site of a major construction
contract for approximately three
and a half years, the park will
remain open and all facilities will
be maintained for public use during
construction.

For additional information on the project or to subscribe to BART's e-mail list, call 476-3900, send an e-mail to bartwarmspringsextension@bart.gov, or visit Bart.gov/wsx.



Seniors: Learn How to Ride Public Transit

re you a senior looking for an affordable and convenient way to get to the doctor, grocery store, or Senior Center?

If so, check out the City's Travel Training Workshops. The workshops, which begin in July, teach seniors how to ride local AC Transit buses and BART trains so they can go where they want, when they want.

The two-day workshop is free and includes classroom instruction and an outing on public transit.

Together with the workshop instructor, participants learn how to:

- Assess their travel skills and needs.
- Pay fares, board transit vehicles, make connections between buses and BART and other essentials for riding public transit.
- Plan trips according to their specific travel needs.
- Obtain assistance from transit operators.

Individuals completing the workshop receive free transit tickets and follow-up coaching as needed. For more information or to register for an upcoming workshop, contact the City's Travel Training Program Coordinator Shawn Fong at 574-2033.

National Night Out is Just Around the Corner

hat's special about **Tuesday**, **Aug. 4**? It's **National Night Out** — the night reserved to

meet and mingle with your neighbors

to strengthen the community and raise
awareness about crime prevention.

Come out and celebrate with your
neighbors on your block and across
the nation.

Any size party or gathering is fun!
Potlucks, barbecues, ice cream sundaes,
desserts, chips and sodas — it's up to you.
No celebration is too small and it is a fun
way to connect with your neighbors.



For more information as well as registration details, visit FremontPolice.org.

Our Community

City Joins in Festival of the Arts

he annual Fremont Festival of the Arts is scheduled for the weekend of **Aug. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Sponsored by the Fremont Chamber of Commerce, the event promises something fun for everyone. Do you have a question about City programs?

- Visit the City and Environmental Services Division booths, both of which will be located on Capitol Avenue between Paseo Padre Parkway and Liberty Street. Pick up information about City services and learn about clean water and recycling programs.
- Check out the Police Department's Command Post (at Murco Plaza, in the parking lot off of Capitol Avenue and Paseo Padre Parkway).

Hope to see you there!

First Time Homebuyer Program

Stop dreaming about homeownership. Take the first step today toward purchasing your first home.

et the City's Office of Housing and Redevelopment help you purchase your first home. The Office of Housing and Redevelopment can help your dream of homeownership become a reality through our First Time Homebuyer Program. It consists of two down payment assistance loan programs and the below market rate homeownership program.

The down payment assistance loan programs are called Welcome Home and Welcome to the Neighborhood. Through these programs, eligible applicants can receive up to \$40,000 in deferred loans to help in down payment assistance and other costs associated with purchasing a home in Fremont. Deferred loans mean you do not have to make any monthly payments and the loan is not due until you sell or transfer the home.

Through the First Time Homebuyer Program, the Office of Housing and Redevelopment also makes available new homes at below market rate prices. Currently, brand new homes are offered to income-eligible households at Loredo, Sonora, Castilleja, Park Lane West, and Hummingbird Place communities.

To be considered for one of the First Time Homebuyer Programs, either the deferred loan program or the below market rate homeownership program, potential buyers must complete a mandatory 90-minute homeownership workshop.

Take the first step today and register online for an upcoming homeownership workshop by visiting our website at Fremont.gov/HomeOwnershipProgram. For more information, contact the Office of Housing and Redevelopment at 494-4500.



Housing Element

n March 3, the City Council approved a draft of the updated Housing Element of the General Plan for submittal to the State of California for their review. The draft

plan — prepared after extensive public outreach and several study sessions with the Planning Commission and City Council — lays out the City's strategies for meeting our projected housing needs for the next five years and beyond.

Consistent with community input and with City Council direction, the draft envisions most future housing being focused near transit stations and in the Central Business District. It also calls for continued investment in affordable housing, and includes programs aimed at preserving our existing housing stock

and encouraging construction of new rental and for sale housing.

A copy of the draft plan is available on the City's website at Fremont.gov/ GeneralPlan. Once the City receives comments from the State, the draft Element will be revised and the City Council will consider a final version in July. For questions regarding the General Plan or the Housing Element, contact the City's Policy and Special Projects Manager Dan Schoenholz at dschoenholz@fremont.gov or 494-4438.

Traffic Safety Improvements Under Way

New Speed Limits, Enhanced Traffic Signs Posted

ou may have noticed the improved traffic flow on some City streets and the enhanced nighttime visibility provided by many of the City's new traffic signs. These enhancements are the result of our ongoing efforts to maintain safe streets for drivers and pedestrians.

Speed limits between 25 mph and 55 mph are established on the basis of traffic engineering surveys. These surveys include an analysis of roadway conditions, accident records, and a sampling of the prevailing speed of traffic. A safe and reasonable limit is set at or below the speed at which 85 percent of the drivers drive. Traffic flowing at a uniform speed results in fewer accidents, as most of the traffic is voluntarily moving at the posted



speed. The City recently completed an Engineering and Traffic Survey that resulted in speed limit changes on 66 non-residential City streets. The speed limits generally changed by a 5 mph increase or decrease.

New Retroflective Signs

To comply with a new State law, the City will be replacing all of Fremont's safety-related street signs, such as speed limit signs, over the next six and half years to the new retroreflective signs. Retroreflectivity is a technology that enhances the readability and perception of information displayed in lowlight and nighttime conditions. The retroreflective signs bounce light from vehicle headlights back toward the vehicle and the driver's eyes, making signs visible to promote safety and mobility on streets.

New Washington Boulevard Bridge Opened

he Grade Separation Project marked another major milestone with the opening of the new Washington Boulevard Bridge on April 4. Also, with the partial opening of the new elevated Osgood and Driscoll roads, motorists and pedestrians using Washington Boulevard no longer need to stop for trains; the trains are now crossing under the new Washington Boulevard Bridge. The complete Osgood/Driscoll and Washington Boulevard roadways will open to traffic early this fall -- almost one year ahead of schedule.

The new Paseo Padre Parkway will open to traffic, one lane in each direction, in mid-June, while the full roadway will be open to traffic later this summer. For ongoing updates or to be added to the project mailing list, visit Fremontgradesep.com or call the information line at 273-2488.

Aqua Adventure Waterpark Opens to Rave Reviews

he City of Fremont's new waterpark in Central Park is now open! Located on Paseo Padre Parkway, at the south end of Central Park, it is open daily through Labor Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m to 5 p.m Saturday and Sunday. Bring your family and friends to experience the four waterslides, swim in the pool, float on the lazy river, and splash around the water playground. Get set to get wet and discover Fremont's newest facility. For more information, visit GoAquaAdventure.com.

Online registration for swim lessons and the Junior Lifeguard program is now available on RegeRec.com. Classes are offered for kids as young as 6 months and up to 14 years of age. Sign up your child to be one of the first to learn to swim at Aqua Adventure. The Junior Lifeguard Program is for teens, ages 13 to 15 years.



Composting for Business Program

Recycles Food Scraps, Saves Money

ver 50 businesses in Fremont now compost their food scraps in the Composting for Business Program.

This service costs about half the cost of regular garbage service for the same size container.

For more information about the Composting for Business Program, contact the City's Environmental Specialist Lori Marra at 494-4581.

By removing this organic material from the garbage and composting the food instead, we avoid producing methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

Youth to Provide Free 'Green House Calls' to Fremont Residents

ant to save money on your utility bills while helping the environment? If so, sign up for a free 'green house call' from California Youth Energy Services.

Funded by the California Public Utilities Commission via PG&E, Alameda County Water District, and the City of Fremont, this program hires and trains local youth ages 15 to 22 to conduct energy audits and install free conservation measures such as compact fluorescent light bulbs, lowflow shower heads, and more. Depending on what they find, California Youth Energy Services will also make recommendations for more extensive work such as insulation or new appliances.

This free program is open to all Fremont residents. Capacity is limited, so reserve your spot today by calling 665-1501. For more information about this program, visit the California Youth Energy Services website at RisingSunEnergy.org/cyes.htm.



Volunteers gathered last year to make a difference on Coastal Cleanup Day.

Save the Date for Coastal Cleanup Day

ark your calendar and get involved in this year's California Coastal Cleanup Day on **Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon.** Help clean up local creeks while making a difference in the environment.

For more information about this event, visit Fremont.gov/ CoastalCleanUp. To register, contact the Coastal Cleanup Day Coordinator at 494-4570 or environment@fremont.gov.

Mosquitoes Around the House?

Fight the Bite! Target the Source

ere are some helpful tips to eliminate potential breeding sources around your home:

- Eliminate all standing water on your property and tell your neighbors to do the same.
- Place screens on your windows, ensuring a snug fit.
- Protect yourself and your family with a wide variety of less toxic insect repellents. Visit OurWaterOurWorld.org and click on "Finding Pesticide Alternatives" to learn about less toxic products for pest control.



Be aware: Abandoned homes can have standing water and harbor other potential health problems. To report such properties, contact the City's Community Preservation Code Enforcement Unit at 494-4430.

Mosquitoes can carry diseases, such as West Nile virus, that infect humans and animals. The way most people get infected is through a mosquito bite.

Fight the Bite! Protect your family!

Earth Day Fair Gets High Marks

ver 800 people attended this year's Earth Day Fair hosted by the City on April 18. Attendees enjoyed free bike tuneups, puppet shows, environmentally-related exhibitors, kids' activities, interactive workshops, and more. The Environmental Services Division would like to thank all of the exhibitors and volunteers who participated to make this event a success. A special thank you goes out to the following volunteers from local schools as well as Glen Castuciano, a Fremont resident volunteer:

- **Devry University:** Francisco Corretero, Karla Roman, Mike Labon, Robert Morris, and Teh Vang
- Centerville Junior High School: Achintaya Bansal
- Irvington High School: Edistio Gabriel Mendoza
- Milpitas High School: Jenny Li, Lynn Luong, and Sophia Lam
- Mission San Jose High School: Arkesh Patel
- Washington High School: Anmol Mathur, Daniel Miller, and Judy Wu

Refreshments for the exhibitors were generously donated by PJ's Bagel, Raley's, and Starbucks.



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